

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-10 and 14-27 remain pending in the present application.

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-10 and 14-27 over Igari and AAPA

Claims 1, 8, 16, 17, 21, 22, 25 and 27 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Japanese document No. JP404026226A ("Igari"); and claims 4-6, 9, 10, 14, 15, 18-20, 23, 24 and 26 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Igari in view of applicant's admitted prior art ("AAPA"). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-10 and 14-27 recite a method and apparatus relying a second current path connecting row conductors and column conductors comprising a diode to allow current to flow only in one direction therethrough.

The Examiner alleges that Igari's switch matrix is comprised of a current path connecting a row conductor and a column conductor, with the current path comprising a diode, e.g., SW12 in Fig. 2 (See Office Action, page 5). The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Igari's switch SW12 is part of the continuous path of row conductor I/04 (See Fig. 2). SW12 is not a current path connecting a row conductor and a column conductor as used throughout Igari's Fig. 2, i.e., SW1, SW2, SW4, SW5, SW7, SW8, SW10, SW11, SW13, SW14, SW16 and SW17 (See Igari, Fig. 2). Igari fails to disclose a current path connecting a row conductor and a column conductor comprising a diode, as recited by claims 1, 4-6, 8-10 and 14-27.

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-10 and 14-27 recite a method and apparatus relying a second current path connecting all row conductors and all column conductors comprising a diode to allow current to flow only in one direction therethrough.

As discussed above, Igari's SW12 is part of a row conductor, NOT part of a first current path and a second current path connecting a row conductor and a column conductor comprising a diode, as alleged by the Examiner. Nevertheless, Igari's SW12 and SW3 are common with only one other first current path and a second current path, i.e., SW15 and SW6. The rest of Igari's

first current paths and second current paths relying on different configurations. Thus, Igari fails to disclose or suggest all of a second current path connecting a row and a column comprise a diode, i.e., a method and apparatus relying a second current path connecting all row conductors and all column conductors comprising a diode to allow current to flow only in one direction therethrough, as recited by claims 1, 4-6, 8-10 and 14-24.

AAPA is relied on by the Examiner to disclose momentary switching elements and persistent switching elements (See Office Action, page 4). However, AAPA fails to disclose or suggest a method and apparatus utilizing a second current path connecting a row conductor and a column conductor, the second current path comprising a diode to allow current to flow only in one direction therethrough, much less with electrical elements within a second current path connecting all row conductors and all column conductors comprising a diode to allow current to flow only in one direction therethrough, as recited by claims 1, 4-6, 8-10 and 14-24.

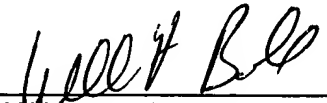
Thus, even if it were obvious to modify Igari with AAPA (which it is not), the theoretical result still fails to disclose or suggest a method and apparatus utilizing a second current path connecting a row conductor and a column conductor, the second current path comprising a diode to allow current to flow only in one direction therethrough, much less with electrical elements within a second current path connecting all row conductors and all column conductors comprising a diode to allow current to flow only in one direction therethrough, as recited by claims 1, 4-6, 8-10 and 14-24.

For at least all the above reasons, claims 1, 4-6, 8-10 and 14-24 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been mooted by the cancellation of prior claims, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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